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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/750,571	12/30/2003	Jon Washington	D-1204	5741

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EXAMINER

PAIK, STEVE S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2876

DATE MAILED: 10/18/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/750,571

Applicant(s)

WASHINGTON ET AL.

Examiner

Steven S. Paik

Art Unit

2876

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-44 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 37-39 and 41-44 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 40 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 December 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of claiming the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) of United States provisional applications, 60/437,636 filed December 31, 2002 and 60/437,637 filed December 31, 2002.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 37-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Howett et al. (US 4,659,008).

Re claim 37, Howett discloses a method of changing the representation of an ATM currency cassette (10) condition indicator (22), including:

a) securing (locking the cassette) a cassette condition indicator to an ATM currency cassette (10);

b) rotating the indicator (ring 22) about an axis thereof to move the indicator axially relative to an exterior surface (18) of the cassette.

Re claim 38, Howett discloses the method as recited in rejected claim 37 stated above, wherein (b) includes rotating the indicator to position the indicator inward of the exterior surface (col. 4, ll. 1-42).

Art Unit: 2876

Re claim 39, Howett discloses the method as recited in rejected claim 37 stated above, wherein (b) includes rotating the indicator to extend a portion of the indicator outward of the exterior surface (col. 4, ll. 1-42).

4. Claim 43 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Oda (JP 11015972A).

Re claim 43, Oda discloses a method and a system (face/iris photography equipment for authenticating an operator accessing an ATM, the Internet, and lock discharging of a safe; [0002] of translated Detailed Description) comprising:

a security system (Fig. 1) wherein the system is operative to restrict access to the interior of an automated banking machine component (page 1, 2nd paragraph),

wherein the system includes a database (page 1, 5th paragraph),

wherein the database includes data representative of images of individuals authorized access to the interior of the automated banking machine component (page 1, 5th paragraph),

wherein the system includes a camera (a photography machine 11a in Fig. 1),

wherein the camera is operative to capture an image of an individual (page 1, 7th paragraph),

wherein the system includes image recognition software (image-processing section recognizes the pattern of the iris pictured by the image sensor 13), wherein the software is operative to determine (by comparing images previously taken and stored in the storage 29 and images taken by the camera part of the photography machine) whether a captured image of an individual corresponds to an individual represented in the database,

wherein the system includes at least one processor (control unit 28),

Art Unit: 2876

wherein the at least one processor is operatively connected to the database (collating section 66 collates the iris images taken previously and stored in the storage 29) and the camera (11; page 3, 19th paragraph), wherein the at least one processor is operative to use the software (the steps used by the image-processing section).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 41 and 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Coutts (US 5,563,393) in view of Haycock (US 6,065,672).

Re claim 41, Coutts discloses a plurality of automated teller machines (ATMs) in an ATM network (Fig. 1). Each of the ATM (10) includes a plurality of currency cassettes (col. 6, ll. 8-10) for holding supplies of currency notes. Each of cassettes includes at least one data indicator (cassette present sensors 42 and cassette low sensors 44) indicating data representative of a characteristic of cassette currency (presence of currency cassette and detection of the supply level of currency quantity in the cassette). The ATM further includes at least one cassette reader (interface device 12) for remotely reading the data of a data indicator (any of data indicators 22-44) without contact therebetween.

Coutts suggests tracking the levels of currency in the currency cassette, but does not explicitly disclose tracking the amount of currency in at least one of the ATMs in real time.

Haycock discloses a method and system for currency distribution, tracking and management utilizing a unique standardized cassette (100). Each cassette contains a smart card (110) capable of storing electronic data reflecting the note history for all the notes found within the cassette. Data can be downloaded to or uploaded from the smart card via an appropriate coupling device in various known methods. The cassettes may be color-coded to easily identify the denomination contained therein, and the smart card is capable of providing detailed distribution and tracking information of each note in real time. The standardized currency cassettes containing smart cards have advantages of improved efficiency of replenishing currency due to the color-coded and standard sizes. The cassettes further provide automated distribution history of each note resulting efficient detection of possible counterfeits.

In view of Haycock, it would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further employ a real time currency tracking cassette in addition to the automated teller machine of Coutts due to the fact that more data related to the distribution and tracking information of currency can be processed in real time for the purposes of improving the replenishing process of currency and other consumable items and detecting the activities of perpetrators creating counterfeits. Furthermore, such modification of employing a standardized currency cassette with a smart card to the teachings of Coutts would have been an obvious matter of design variation, well within the ordinary skill in the art, and therefore an obvious expedient.

Re claim 42, Coutts in view of Haycock discloses the system as recited in rejected claim 41 stated above, wherein the indicator member comprises a radio frequency (RF communication

Art Unit: 2876

technique) identification tag, wherein the data is representative of at least one of cassette identifying information (such as sensor signals 22-44) and cassette content information.

7. Claim 44 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oda (JP 11015972A) in view of Coutts (US 5,563,393).

Re claim 44, Oda discloses a face/iris photography apparatus for use during safety lock release, internet accessing, ATM transactions by comparing the facial images of an operator taken by a camera part of the apparatus with the images of the operator taken previously and stored in a database. The access to the secured area such as ATM with the apparatus simplifies the granting access procedures (direct access).

Although Oda provides the applicable usages of the apparatus, he does not explicitly disclose the details of a component of an automated teller machine.

Coutts discloses a plurality of automated teller machines (ATMs) in an ATM network (Fig. 1). Each of the ATM (10) includes a plurality of currency cassettes (col. 6, ll. 8-10) for holding supplies of currency notes. Each of cassettes includes at least one data indicator (cassette present sensors 42 and cassette low sensors 44) indicating data representative of a characteristic of cassette currency (presence of currency cassette and detection of the supply level of currency quantity in the cassette). The ATM further includes at least one cassette reader (interface device 12) for remotely reading the data of a data indicator (any of data indicators 22-44) without contact therebetween.

In view of Coutts, it would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further incorporate aforesaid ATM comprising, among other things, a currency cassette with a plurality of data indicators in addition to a face/iris

Art Unit: 2876

photography apparatus for use during safety lock release, internet accessing, ATM transactions of Oda due to the fact that more simplified and secured access control of a security area can be accomplished for the purposes of improving the levels of security by selectively granting the access to the highly secured area.

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 1-36 are allowable.

9. Claim 40 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: none of the cited prior arts discloses, teaches or fairly suggests the claimed movable cassette including a plurality of indicator members/buttons movably connected. The plurality of indicator members/buttons is to be moved between a first axial position and a second axial position to indicate a predetermined unique condition of the cassette.

Conclusion

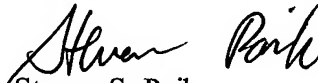
10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Black (US 6,786,354) discloses a media cassette including display means for displaying an indication of the contents within the cassette; Graef et al. (US 5,141,127) discloses a canister having plurality of buttons reflecting electrical conditions of switches.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven S. Paik whose telephone number is 571-272-2404. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri (5:30am-2:00pm).

Art Unit: 2876

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee can be reached on 571-272-2398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Steven S. Paik
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2876

ssp